

Gimme Shelter

News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County Department of
Animal Care & Control

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Furry Fridays are Coming

Are you looking for a pet, but not looking forward to driving to the Animal Shelter in Waterford? You're in luck! Beginning Friday, May 2, the Loudoun County Animal Shelter and the Sterling Community Center are teaming up to help adopters and shelter animals find each other on "Furry Fridays."

Once a month, animals from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter will be at the Sterling Community Center from **5-7pm** on "Furry Fridays". Furry Fridays are scheduled for:

May 2
June 6
July 25
August 22
September 26
October 24
November 14
December 12



Bring the whole family for a real "happy hour" when you visit with adorable animals looking for new homes. You just might find your perfect pet!

The Sterling Community Center is located at 120 Enterprise Street in Sterling.

Pets available for adoption can be seen online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at www.loudoun.gov/animals.

Foster Families Needed

The Animal Shelter is looking for interested individuals and families to serve as foster care providers for special cats and kittens.

Spring is the beginning of "kitten season" – the time of year when cats give birth and animal shelters are overwhelmed with homeless litters. The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is no exception, and is already beginning to see an increase in very young and orphaned kittens coming to the facility.

Foster homes are most often needed for kittens too young to be adopted or mother cats with their babies. These animals require a level of care and socialization that is difficult to achieve in a shelter environment that is not staffed 24 hours-a-day. Foster care provides one of the few opportunities these animals have to survive.

Adult cats are also in need of the kind of the special, one-on-one care a foster home provides, especially during this time when the Animal Shelter is experiencing a rise in its cat and kitten population. Many older or more sensitive cats are able to thrive in foster homes with families that love them, which helps ease their transition into permanent adoptive homes.

Depending on their individual situation, animals may be in their foster homes for several days to several weeks. Foster families are provided with training and support from Animal Shelter staff to ensure that they are prepared to care for the animals in their home and any special needs they may have.

An informational orientation to the foster care program will be held on **Saturday, May 10, at 10:00 AM at the Loudoun**

Calling Junior Volunteers



The Animal Shelter is hosting three two-week sessions of the Junior Volunteer Program this summer: 6/24-7/3, 7/22-31, and 8/19-28.

Each session is open to 5 Loudoun County residents ages 14-15. Junior Volunteers focus on Animal Shelter activities, such as cleaning and animal care, while also learning responsible pet ownership practices.

The program runs from 9:00am to 1:00pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each two week session.

Please contact Amy Seymour with any questions: Amy.Seymour@loudoun.gov or (703)737-8097, or apply online at www.loudoun.gov/animals.

Applications must be received by June 1.



County Animal Shelter. Potential foster parents will learn more about the program and how they can help animals in need. All interested parties are encouraged to attend!

Make a difference for the smallest shelter orphans – become a foster parent!

Our Wild Neighbors

Spring is here, and as we spend more time outdoors enjoying the beautiful weather, we have more opportunities to come into contact with the critters that share our environment.

Wildlife watching can be lots of fun, but it is important to remember to keep a safe distance. The furry critters that inhabit our backyards and parks may look like cute cuddly cartoon characters, but in reality they are animals that are not accustomed to making contact with people. It is important to remember that they are not socialized, and should be left alone. Feeding wild critters will only make them dependent on you and can create quite a nuisance if they

decide to permanently move in!

The best rule of thumb for peaceful co-existence with wildlife is just to leave them alone. Be sure to educate children not to touch wild animals and to keep a safe distance to limit possible exposure.

When wildlife does become a nuisance, by either hammering on the side of the house, digging a den under the front porch, or eating all of your brand new landscaping plants, there are solutions. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has information on their website: www.dgif.state.va.us on common Virginia nuisance wildlife and solutions. You can also contact a pest control

company to assist with removing nuisance wildlife. Animal Control responds to calls when the animal is sick or injured, or has become a threat to humans or domestic pets. Be sure to keep your pets' rabies vaccines up to date in case they become involved in an altercation with wildlife.

You can learn more about wildlife in the "Links" section of our website: www.loudoun.gov/animals.



Employee of the Month

Angela Joynt is May's Employee of the Month! Angela has worked for the Department for three years, originally as an Animal Care Technician and currently as the Department's Administrative Assistant.

Angela's efforts to ensure her duties are accomplished and then looking to help her co-workers is highly commendable. This recognition acknowledges her hard work in: cleaning and organizing the Shelter Manager's office, helping shelter staff clean the back cat rooms when they were

short staffed, dealing with Nextel and billing issues, and taking in and providing such great care to the hermit crabs surrendered to the Shelter. Her unselfishness and great work ethic serves as an example to other staff along with her love and commitment to the animals is greatly appreciated.

Thank you Angela for all you do!



Congratulations Angela!

What We're Up To...

New Website

If you frequent our website you may have noticed a change in our adoption pages. We've made some big improvements to help give you the most up-to-date information on pets looking for new homes!

Our adoption pages are now connected directly to our Shelter database program so that each animal is automatically posted when the database is updated. If you are used to looking at our old adoption pages, the new ones might

seem strange at first. But we hope you will find them to be even more informative and accurate. Be sure to check them out!

Paws for Your Heart

Join us at Ida Lee Park on Saturday, June 21, for the first annual **Paws for Your Heart** 5K Fun Walk! Proceeds benefit the Animal Shelter and Douglass Community Center Advisory Board for Children's Programs. It will be fun for people and pets alike! Get more information at www.leesburgvet.com.



A 5K Fun Walk Benefiting the Loudoun County Animal Shelter & Douglass Community Center Advisory Board for Children's Programs